

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 30, 2022

The Honorable Muriel Bowser  
Mayor of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW #406  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mayor Bowser:

Democrat-run cities across the country are struggling under the progressive Democrat Defund the Police influence and soft-on-crime policies. Unfortunately, this trend is affecting the District of Columbia (D.C.). Under your leadership, D.C. continues to face violence and destruction. While crime in 2022 surpasses even an abysmal 2021, Republicans on the House Committee on Oversight and Reform and House Committee on the Judiciary seek information about the increasingly dangerous state of D.C. and the D.C. government's failure to quell criminal activity. For over a year, Republicans have raised concerns about D.C.'s soaring crime and deteriorating conditions. The D.C. government, however, has ignored all requests for information.<sup>1</sup> It is past time you take action to restore order to the nation's capital.

On June 19, 2022, a 15-year-old child was shot and killed at a music festival in Northwest D.C.<sup>2</sup> Three adults—including a police officer—were also shot that day.<sup>3</sup> Though Chief Robert J. Contee III of the Metropolitan Police Department attributed the shooting in part to “the wrong mix of people,”<sup>4</sup> the fault for this tragedy lies squarely with the D.C. government and your failure to prioritize safety and policing. As reported by the *Washington Post*, D.C. violence has become so widespread that “[p]eople have started to think twice before going to concerts and the mall. A restaurant manager reports diners have been scared off by fears of gunfire. An activist canceled his anti-violence event over worries about violence.”<sup>5</sup>

The most recent shooting in D.C. was part of a “weekend crime wave” in which “dozens [were] wounded in major city bloodshed” across the country.<sup>6</sup> The worsening state of America's Democrat-led cities is exemplified by the nation's own capital, where violent crime is up

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<sup>1</sup> See Letter from Hon. James Comer, et. al., Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight and Reform, to Hon. Muriel Bowser, Mayor, District of Columbia (Mar. 1, 2022); Letter from Hon. James Comer, et. al., Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight and Reform, to Hon. Muriel Bowser, Mayor, District of Columbia (Oct. 1, 2021); Letter from Hon. Jim Jordan, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Judiciary, and Hon. James Comer, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight and Reform, to Hon. Muriel Bowser, Mayor, District of Columbia (Sep. 2, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> Vimal Patel, *15-Year-Old Is Killed and 3 Are Shot in Gunfire at D.C. Music Festival*, N.Y. TIMES (Jun. 20, 2022).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> Justin Jouvenal and Emily Davies, *In D.C. area, shootings stoke fears of going out*, WASH. POST (Jun. 23, 2022).

<sup>6</sup> Stephanie Pagonis, *Weekend crime wave: Dozens wounded in major city bloodshed as Chicago, New York City, DC report mass shootings*, FOXNEWS.COM (Jun. 21, 2022).

11 percent compared to this time last year, including homicides increasing 21 percent and robberies jumping 31 percent.<sup>7</sup> Property crime such as burglary and motor vehicle theft is also on the rise since this time last year.<sup>8</sup> Following an already disastrous and dangerous 2021, which saw an increase in homicides by 14 percent over 2020, 2022 appears to be on track to set an even more shameful pace.<sup>9</sup>

Democrat elected officials' continuing efforts to push failed policies that keep criminals on the streets shows a total disregard for their constituents' safety. D.C. Attorney General Karl Racine has advocated "restorative justice to become 'the default way of dealing with juveniles'—even for some of the most serious crimes, like murder."<sup>10</sup> Despite serious concerns raised by the D.C. Police Union, D.C. Council Chairman Phil Mendelson and Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen have pushed anti-police legislation drawn from Defund the Police talking points.<sup>11</sup> While finally providing additional funding for police in your 2022 budget,<sup>12</sup> the D.C. Council has allegedly cut millions of dollars of funding for additional police officers in D.C.<sup>13</sup> Meanwhile your office promotes committing millions of dollars to soft and ineffective policies like using "violence interrupters" to mediate hypothetical crimes.<sup>14</sup> This weak response will only ensure people visiting, living, or working in D.C. continue to be endangered.

We again request that you provide the Republican staff of the Oversight Committee and Judiciary Committee a briefing to explain your plans to address the alarming rates of crime in the District of Columbia. Please make arrangements to schedule this briefing by July 7, 2022.

To schedule the briefing or to ask any follow-up or related questions, please contact Oversight Committee staff at (202) 225-5704 or Judiciary Committee staff at (202) 225-6906.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. Additionally, the Committee on Oversight and Reform has primary legislative jurisdiction over "[m]unicipal affairs of the District of Columbia in general" pursuant to House Rule X. Additionally, the Committee on the Judiciary has jurisdiction under House Rule X to examine and legislate on "criminal law enforcement and criminalization."

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<sup>7</sup> *District Crime Data at a Glance, 2021 Year-to-Date Crime Comparison* (as of June 27, 2022), Metropolitan Police Department, available at <https://mpdc.dc.gov/page/district-crime-data-glance>.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> Stephanie Ramirez, *DC Attorney General wants restorative justice for all juvenile cases, even murder*, FOX5DC.COM (Feb. 4, 2022).

<sup>11</sup> Paul Wagner, *DC Police Union Ad Blames 2 Council Members for Crime Increase*, NBCWASHINGTON4.COM (Apr. 14, 2022).

<sup>12</sup> Julie Zauzmer Weil, *Bowser proposes increase in police funding, more traffic cameras in D.C. budget*, WASH. POST (Mar. 16, 2022).

<sup>13</sup> Nick Iannelli, *Mayor Bowser claims DC Council is cutting her plan for more police*, WTOPNEWS.COM (Apr. 22, 2022).

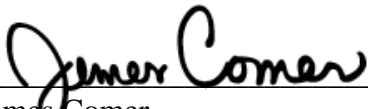
<sup>14</sup> Colleen Grablick, *D.C. To Add Dozens Of Violence Interrupters Across The City*, DCIST (Dec. 9, 2021); see also Lauren Hamilton, *DC's violence interrupters may not be helping to curb rising crime, audit says*, WTOPNEWS.COM (Jun. 12, 2022).

The Honorable Muriel Bowser

June 30, 2022

Page 3

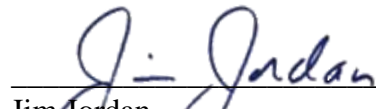
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Comer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "J" and "C".

James Comer

Ranking Member

Committee on Oversight and Reform

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "J" and "J".

Jim Jordan

Ranking Member

Committee on the Judiciary

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman  
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler, Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary